

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /183 W
-----102153 240029Z /70

R 231040Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9870
INFO USUN NEW YORK 698
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1349

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS,CE
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA POLICY ON LAW OF THE SEA (LOS)

REF: STATE 070035

1. POL OFFICER CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)
LEGAL ADVISER, P.H. KURUKULASOORIYA, TO DISCUSS REACTION TO
AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S MARCH 16 PRESS CONFERENCE ON LOS,
COPY OF WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO HIM EARLIER. KURUKULASOORIYA
THOUGHT RICHARDSON TOOK A TOUGH LINE THAT ORDINARILY WOULD
ELICIT ADVERSE REACTION FROM G-77. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT
AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN LOS MATTERS TOUGH LINE
WAS APPROPRIATE. HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE RICHARDSON'S
STATEMENT THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR COMPROMISE IN US POSITIONS.

2. KURUKULASOORIYA SAID SRI LANKA'S DELEGATION TO LOS
CONFERENCE WOULD CONSIST OF B.J. FERNANDO, PERM REP TO
UN, AND HIRAN JAYEWARDENE, A STUDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT
CAMBRIDGE AND PRESIDENT J.R. JAYEWARDENE'S NEPHEW. SRI
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LANKA EMBASSY GENEVA OFFICERS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.

3. MFA HAS ISSUED BROAD FLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS
TO DELEGATION. KURUKULASOORIYA SAID GOVERNMENT POLICY
HAS CHANGED TO REFLECT DOMESTIC CHANGES IN SRI LANKA,
A MOVEMENT TOWARD GREATER FREE ENTERPRISE. SRI
LANKA IS, THEREFORE, READY TO SUPPORT DUAL SYSTEM OF

EXPLOITATION OF SEABED RESOURCES. HE NOTED TOO THAT SINCE SRI LANKA'S DELEGATES ARE NEW, THEY WILL NOT BE TIED TO OLD FORMUALE AND WILL BE FREER TO DEVELOP AND ADVOCATE COMPORMISE SOLUTIONS. HE SAID SRI LANKA WOULD STILL HAVE TO STAY WITHIN THE CONFIENS OF G-77, BUT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY END UP ON THE FAR RIGHT. HE LIKENED SRI LANKA'S NEW ROLE AND EVENTUAL POSTION TO THOSE OF SINGAPORE. HE BELIEVES MANY IN G-77 PREPARED TO MOVE FROM IDEOLOGICAL TO MORE PRAGMATIC POSITIONS. WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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